

Overview of UNDA (United Nations Development Account) projects led by the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division

1. Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development (all 5 UN Regional Commissions; UNECE was a leading agency)

Timing / duration: 2012 - 2015

Objective: To strengthen capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attract investments in energy efficiency projects in the context of climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

Activities:

- Five regional trainings (one course for each region) in project development, finance and business planning.
- Five regional workshops (one in each region) to analyze investment project pipeline (inventory of energy efficiency project proposals, see bullet point 5) and disseminate UNECE experience acquired in implementing the FEEI Project to stakeholders, including representatives from the business and banking sectors.
- Fifteen case studies on the experience of policy reforms in cooperation with national coordinators and national participating institutions in beneficiary countries to be discussed at five regional policy seminars.
- Five policy seminars focusing on policy reforms to promote financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments with the aim of strengthening the capacity of national and local policymakers in each region.
- Develop an investment project pipeline: inventory of energy efficiency project proposals, each of which contains standard presentation of energy efficiency investment project, with details of the total cost of the project, investment requirements, projected internal rates of return and carbon dioxide emission reductions for submission to domestic and international investors, banks, investment funds, and other financial institutions in beneficiary countries.
- One end-of-the-project global workshop to bring together officials from the regions along with major domestic and foreign investors to encourage greater investment flows into the EE projects.

Financial resources: 1,250,000 USD for 5 Regional Commissions

Summary of impact/outcomes:

The project set forth a suite of existing energy efficiency policies that stand out as best practices. The policies identified by the project include exemplars of best practices in energy efficiency policies from around the globe, drawn from respected and objective policy evaluations and databases. The project allowed developing a structured framework on which to identify and base a menu of best practice energy efficiency (EE) policies and measures suitable for adaptation and adoption by member States of the United Nations regional commissions. It provides a comprehensive but simple system that encompasses the description, identification, nomenclature, and classification of energy efficiency policies and measures, in response to the need to enhance energy efficiency policies and concrete outcomes. The framework includes recognized effective and economic policies and measures that

when applied will accelerate achieving the energy efficiency objective of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative of the UN Secretary-General.

An investment project pipeline (i.e. an inventory of energy efficiency project proposals from member countries) has been prepared:

- In the UNECE and UNESCAP regions, the inventory contains already a total of 32 project proposals from 23 countries. The aggregate value of the proposed projects amounted to about US\$ 190 million;
- In the UNECA region 9 project proposals were identified and recommended for financing;
- In the UNESCWA region 17 proposed projects ideas were further assessed, discussed and formulated as project proposals; UN ESCWA also developed a comprehensive Step-by-Step EE Project Development Guidebook document, to serve as a support and reference document for capacity building for this DA project, and will also be made available for all future EE project developers who would want to use it to prepare bankable EE project business plans;
- UNECLAC project pipeline included 28 projects in five Latin American countries with total investments US\$ 919.48 million. The largest proposed project concerned the upgrading of the national power distribution system in Ecuador (approx. US\$ 473.2 million) to reduce technical and non-commercial losses. The Latin American Development Bank (CAF) officially announced in 2014 the creation of a new Regional Energy Efficiency Fund/Facility for energy efficiency projects (totalling US\$ 400 million, with an initial allocation of US\$ 120 million).

Eighteen national case studies on the experience of improved energy efficiency policies and reforms have been prepared (seven case studies for the UNECE member States). Countries' experience has been shared at five policy seminars focusing on policy reforms to promote financing of energy efficiency investments with the aim of strengthening the capacity of national and local policymakers in each region. The case studies show how a concrete policy reform transformed economically attractive investment projects into bankable projects which have been financed. Based on these case studies and experience of the developed countries, which have proved to have a successful energy efficiency strategy, the project developed a benchmark that should serve as a reference point for policy makers and energy experts working in the field of energy efficiency.

Publications:

- *Best Policy Practices for Promoting Energy Efficiency*
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39075&L=0>
- *Study Analysis of National Case Studies on Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency Investments*
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/geee1_Nov2014/DraftPrePublicationAnalysisCaseStudies_AS_Latest.pdf

2. Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development (UNECE and ESCWA; ESCWA is the lead agency)

Expected timing/ duration: 2014-2017

Objective: To strengthen the capacities of government officials, national financial institutions and national energy experts and project developers, which are involved in renewable energy (RE) in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Arab region and ECE region, to attract investments in renewable energy projects as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

Activities:

- Providing technical assistance to the national officials and experts through two regional trainings (one course for each region) in RE project development, finance and business planning to educate participants on mentioned issues.
- Providing assistance to six beneficiary countries (three countries in each region) in developing an investment project pipeline: inventory of RE project proposals, each of which contains standard presentation of RE investment project, with details of the total cost of the project, investment requirements, projected internal rates of return and carbon dioxide emission reductions, to support them in the submission process to domestic and international investors, banks, investment funds, and other financial institutions. Business plans will be developed for the two most interesting projects from the pipelines (one for each region) will be selected and presented at the End-of-project workshop.
- End-of-project workshop to bring together officials from the two regions along with major domestic and foreign investors. The closing workshop will present business plans from investment project pipelines from the two regions that would be considered for financing by various financial institutions and would have a good chance to receive investments.
- Providing knowledge on RE investment projects, which concerns both the regulatory and policy requirements and purely technical aspects that countries would need to deal with when attracting and implementing investments based on foreign or national capital through two regional workshops (one in each region).
- Developing six case studies (4 in ESCWA region and 2 in ECE region), in beneficiary countries and in cooperation with national coordinators and national participating institutions, on the experience of policy reforms.
- Organizing two policy seminars focusing on policy reforms (one in each region) to promote financing of RE investments with the aim of strengthening the capacity of national and local policymakers. The participants will consider the case studies for six countries developed in the above bullet point.
- Establishing an online platform for knowledge sharing information and compilation of best practices and lessons learned from other regions. That platform will also provide a knowledge base on promoting investments in renewable energy projects, available international financing mechanisms and best practices, and maintaining a database of case studies, as well as proposed and approved institutional and policy reforms, and other related information (financing schemes, capacity building, institutional strengthening etc.).

Estimated financial resources: 272,750 USD for UNECE

Summary of (expected) impact/outcomes

- Improved capacity of government officials, national financial institutions and national energy experts and project developers to develop renewable energy investment projects in the private and public sectors
- Improved capacity for governments to adopt policies and measures to improve opportunities for banks and commercial companies to invest in renewable energy projects through the development of new financing mechanisms

3. Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (under preparation; UNECE is the lead implementing agency. ESCAP is the implementing partner)

Expected timing/ duration: 2016-2019 (

Objective: To strengthen the national capacity of economies in transition to develop National Action Plans for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in the context of the post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda.

Activities:

- A baseline review of sustainable energy data in each beneficiary country in order to assess the existing gaps in data collection.
- Two sub-regional trainings to the national officials and experts responsible for sustainable energy data collection.
- Identification of best practices on sustainable energy for each beneficiary country.
- Multi-stakeholder consultations with the participation of national officials/experts, UNECE, ESCAP, UNDESA, SE4ALL secretariat and others.
- Development of a National Action Plan for each beneficiary country.
- A final validation workshop for the National Action Plans for sustainable energy for each beneficiary country.
- Organize one regional meeting for UNECE member States to share lessons learned on the development of the methodology of the data collection and support to the related sustainable housing and urban development policies.

Estimated financial resources: 564,000 USD total; 338,000 USD for UNECE

Summary of (expected) impact/outcomes

- Improved national capacity for data collection and monitoring of progress on energy related sustainable development goals.
- Strengthened national capacities to develop national action plans for sustainable energy based on the best international practices.